

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3862

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS MOSCOW 7566

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE: APRIL NOT A GOOD MONTH

REF: A) MOSCOW 6470, B) MOSCOW 6725

1. SUMMARY: RATE OF GROWTH FOR BOTH TOTAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND LABOR PRODUCTIVITY SLOWED DOWN SLIGHTLY DURING APRIL. FOUR INDUSTRIES (CHEMICAL, PETROLEUM REFINING AND PETROCHEMICAL, TIMBER AND WOOD PROCESSING, AND FISH INDUSTRY) WERE BLAMED IN MAY 13 TRUD REPORT FOR MAJOR PART OF UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE, WHILE "ZIL" AUTOMOBILE PLANT AND OTHER ENTERPRISES WERE LAUDED FOR OVERFULFILLING PLAN GOALS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO A MAY 13 TRUD ARTICLE BY V. GARMASH, DEPUTY DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF CENTRAL STATISTICAL ADMINISTRATION (CSA),
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ENTITLED "HIGH TEMPO, EFFICIENT RHYTHM", SOVIET INDUSTRIAL

PRODUCTION WAS UP 4.8 PERCENT FOR FIRST FOUR MONTHS 1976 COMPARED WITH SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHILE FIGURES FOR LABOR PRODUCTIVITY RISE WAS 3.4 PERCENT. THIS COMPARES WITH FIGURES OF FIVE PERCENT AND 3.7 PERCENT REPORTED FOR INCREASES IN THESE TWO INDICES DURING FIRST QUARTER 1976 (REFTEL A). PRODUCTION INCREASES IN GAS, CHEMICAL AND MICROBIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, NUMBER OF MACHINEBUILDING PLANTS, MEDICINES AND PULP-PAPER INDUSTRY EXCEEDED AVERAGE DURING APRIL. HOWEVER, MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY FAILED TO OVERCOME FIRST-QUARTER SHORTFALL IN SPITE OF GOOD APRIL PERFORMANCE AND REMAINED ONLY INDUSTRIAL MINISTRY NOT MEETING PLAN GOALS. FOUR-MONTH PLAN TARGETS WERE NOT MET FOR PRODUCTION MINERAL FERTILIZERS, CERTAIN TYPES MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, LUMBER, NEWSPRINT, WRITING PAPER AND NOTEBOOKS, AND SEVERAL TYPES OF CLOTH. AVERAGE DAILY OUTPUT OF KNITTED GOODS (BOTH INNER AND OUTER), LEATHER SHOES AND CERTAIN ITEMS OF CLOTHING ACTUALLY DECLINED IN APRIL COMPARED WITH FIRST QUARTER RATES.

3. THE ZIL AUTOMOBILE PLANT IS CREDITED WITH OVER-PLAN PRODUCTION OF THREE MILLION RUBLES, INCLUDING 1,000 "MOSKVICH" AUTOS, 300,000 RUBLES WORTH SPARE PARTS AND ABOUT 100,000 RUBLES WORTH APPLIANCES. ACCORDING TO GARMASH, ZIL WORKERS ARE MAKING GOOD USE OF ". . . ALL THAT WHICH WE CALL PRODUCTION FUNDS. . . THIS ENORMOUS WEALTH OF THE PEOPLE", AS URGED BY BREZHNEV DURING HIS APRIL 30 VISIT TO THE PLANT.
STOESSEL

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